In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction isolated from snake venom, the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction having an analgesic effect after a lag period, and the ~~having the characteristics of a fraction purified from said venom by Mono Q ion-exchange chromatography, wherein said fraction has an analgesic effect after a lag period, and wherein said~~ snake is selected from the group of snake families consisting of Atractaspidae, Elapidae, Crotalidae, Hydrophidae and Viperidae, with the exception of Vipera Xanthina,

wherein the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction has the characteristics of a fraction purified from snake venom by FPLC Mono Q ion-exchange chromatography carried out using an eluent comprising a mixture of 20 mM Tris-HCL buffer pH 7.0 and 20 mM Tris/.5 M NaCl buffer, where the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction elutes at 12-28 minutes during an elution period of 45 minutes.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction according to claim 1 wherein said Crotalidae is Crotalus adamanteus.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction according to claim 1 wherein said Elapidae is Naja melanoleuca.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A product obtained from the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction of claim 1 which retains said properties of the fraction.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for use as an analgesic comprising a substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for topical administration.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for parenteral administration.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of pain.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~the relief of~~ relieving pain [[of]] in a subject comprising administrating to said subject a substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction according to claim 1.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 12 wherein ~~said~~ the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction is topically administered.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating a substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction from snake venom, ~~wherein said fraction has an analgesic effect,~~ comprising applying whole venom to an ion exchange column and eluting the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction having an analgesic effect with an aqueous buffer,

wherein ~~said~~ the snake is selected from the group of snake families consisting of Atractaspidae, Elapidae, Crotalidae, Hydrophidae and Viperidae, with the exception of Vipera Xanthina, and

wherein the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction has the characteristics of a fraction purified from snake venom by FPLC Mono Q ion-exchange chromatography carried out using an eluent comprising a mixture of 20 mM Tris-HCL buffer pH 7.0 and 20 mM Tris/.5 M NaCl buffer, where the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction elutes at 12-28 minutes during an elution period of 45 minutes.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of claim 14, wherein ~~said~~ the ion exchange column is a Mono Q ion-exchange column.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim 15 wherein ~~said~~ the Mono Q ion-exchange column is eluted with a TRIS-HCl buffer or with an ammonium acetate buffer.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 16 wherein the concentration of ~~said~~ the buffer is 20mM and the pH is in the range of 6.8-7.5.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 17 wherein ~~said~~ the substantially non-toxic analgesic fraction elutes at 12-28 minutes.